

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COMPUTERIZED NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINATIONS and/or CALIFORNIA LAW EXAMINATION

Physical Therapy Board of California will offer the National Physical Therapy examinations and California Law examination for physical therapists and physical therapists assistants only on computer. The following are common questions about taking the computerized examinations.

### ***What are the steps to licensure via computer?***

- Candidates will obtain application materials from the PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA (PTBC). These materials will include a FSBPT computer scannable application for candidates to complete.
- Candidates will return completed application materials, including the FSBPT scannable application, along with payment, to the Board. ***If the scannable application is incomplete, it will be returned to the candidate.*** (Scannable FSBPT application is in addition to P1A, P1B and P1C.)
- The Board will approve candidates, if eligible, and notify the Professional Examination Service (PES).
- PES will send eligible candidates an Authorization to Test Letter. A list of Sylvan Technology Centers will be included with the Authorization to Test Letter so you may schedule the examination at the location of your choice. **Do NOT contact the Sylvan Technology Centers prior to receiving your Authorization to Test Letter.**
- ***Candidates must sit for the examination within 60 days of the date on the eligibility letter provided by PES.*** Candidates who do not sit for the examination within these 60 days, will be removed from the eligibility list and will be required to submit the FSBPT computer scannable application and additional fees to the Board.
- PES will send score reports to each Board. ***No information regarding pass/fail status will be available to candidates at the examination site. Candidates must not call the Board or PES for examination results.***
- The Board will mail examination results to the candidates approximately 30 days after the examination.
- If a retake is necessary due to failure of an examination, candidates are required to resubmit the FSBPT computer scannable application to the Board, following the steps outlined above.

### ***Must candidates test in the jurisdiction in which they are seeking licensure?***

No. Candidates may sit for the examination at any of the 220 testing centers nationwide. Candidates *are not* required to sit for the examination within the jurisdiction in which they are seeking licensure; however, the examination is not available overseas.

### ***When may examinations be taken?***

At most locations, candidates may sit for the examination every Monday through Saturday, 9:00AM – 6:00 PM, every week of the year.

**Note:** Allow adequate time to schedule the examination prior to the expiration of the 60-day eligibility.

***How much time is given for the examinations?***

Candidates for the national physical therapy examination are allowed four (4) hours for the physical therapist examination and three (3) hours for the physical therapist assistant examination. There are 200 items on the physical therapist examination, and 150 items on the physical therapist assistant examination. Candidates for the Laws and Regulations examination are allowed (1) hour.

***Are refunds available for no-shows?***

No. Since the rescheduling policy is so liberal, no refunds are available.

***What information must be provided when candidates call to schedule their examinations with the testing center?***

Candidates must provide:

- 1) Name
- 2) Social Security number (Candidate ID#)
- 3) Daytime telephone
- 4) The name of the examination (i.e., PT, PTA or laws and regulation examination)
- 5) Location selected to take the examination(s)

***What are the requirements for admission to the testing center?***

Candidates must arrive *fifteen minutes* prior to their scheduled appointment. Candidates must have a *government-issued photo ID* (passport, driver's license, etc.), as well as another piece of identification which contains a signature (i.e., a credit card). All candidates will be thumb-printed and photographed at the testing center. All testing sessions will be videotaped.

**Note:** The Department of Motor Vehicles will confiscate your Drivers License when applying for a renewal, name or address change. Plan appropriately to eliminate not having proper identification of a Drivers License available.

***If unable to keep the scheduled testing appointment, how does rescheduling work?***

Candidates may reschedule the examination up to two days prior to the scheduled test date by calling the toll-free number provided to them in their eligibility letter. ***DO NOT CALL THE BOARD OF PES.***

***How often can the examinations be taken?***

Candidates can take the examination up to four times in any twelve-month period.

***Do candidates need to wait a specified period of time between testing?***

Candidates do not need to wait any period of time between examination administrations. It is estimated that, given the need to reapply to the Board for each examination administration, there will be at least one month between administrations.

***Is computer knowledge necessary?***

No. Computer knowledge is definitely not required to take a computerized examination. Before the examination begins, a simple introductory lesson is presented which explains the process of selecting answers and moving around the examination from question to question. The time candidates spend on the practice lesson does not count against the time allotted for the examination. Candidates may choose to select a letter on the keyboard and press “ENTER” to record answers, or they may use the mouse to click on the chosen response.

***While taking the examination, can candidates move back and forth between items?***

Yes. While taking the computerized examinations, candidates can skip forward or backward on the examination.

***Can candidates mark items for later review?***

Yes. The examinations contain a feature which allows candidates to mark certain items so that they may be reviewed.

***What are the testing centers like?***

Each testing center allows candidates to concentrate totally on the examinations, without distractions or fatigue. Private, modular testing booths provide plenty of workspace, comfortable seating, proper lighting and ventilation. The computer workstations are state-of-the-art technology, with high-clarity screen displays to minimize eyestrain.

***Can individuals with disabilities be accommodated?***

Yes. Candidates who require special accommodations must complete Form D1 and return the completed form with your application to the Board. An authorized professional must complete the verification of request for special accommodation. The Board will notify PES of the special accommodations requested.